

**“We Americans had developed the best system of air fighting that the world had ever seen.”**

– Brig. Gen. William “Billy” Mitchell

## News in Brief

### Graduation

Members of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 03-10 will graduate at 10 a.m. today in Anderson Hall auditorium.

### Correction

Last week’s Border Eagle story about Tricare Plus erroneously stated that members who experience problems with downtown physicians should report them to the Tricare Service Center at the 47th Medical Group.

Written complaints should be dropped off for collection at the outpatient records section of the medical group. In addition, forms requesting an exception to policy for inclusion in the Tricare Plus program can also be obtained at outpatient records.

For more information, please call Capt. Dawnita Parkinson at 298-6309 or 1st Lt. Lauren Chavez at 298-6368.

## Mission status

(As of Saturday)

Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	-2.37	87.4%
T-1	0.30	82.3%
T-38	-2.87	77.1%
T-6	-3.75	83.8%

# Laughlin holds first wing low level flying competition

By Airman 1st Class

**Timothy J. Stein**

Editor

After a several week delay due to weather, Laughlin was able to finish its first wing low-level flying competition last week with the 84th and 85th Flying Training Squadrons finally able to take the air.

The competition, which began May 9 with the 86th and 87th FTSs flying their sorties was delayed twice because of bad weather. The competition was held to promote esprit de corps in the 47th Flying Training Wing by unifying the four training squadrons in a common flying competition and to provide a forum to recognize pilots in the wing. While Laughlin has had low-level competitions in the past, this is the first time T-37s or T-1s were also involved.

Each squadron designed their own low-level flying competition and crowned a squadron winner. The T-38 and the T-37 squadrons



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Members of the 85th Flying Training Squadron F flight prepare the map they will use when flying their sortie in the low-level competition. Although only two pilots flew the mission, the entire flight helped them prepare.

simulated dropping bombs on targets while the T-1 pilots had to first simulate a mid-air refueling and then a low-level troop drop.

There was also a wing competition. Four different wing teams were created with members from each

[See ‘Low’ page 4](#)

## Rumsfeld says Iraqi problems real but workable

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, – Iraq, with the help of the Coalition Provisional Authority, will work past its current problems, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, May 27.

Rumsfeld said Iraq’s problems are real, but shouldn’t be blown out of proportion. Every country making a break with its past has gone through similar trauma.

Rumsfeld talked about a country

that, “faced looting, crime, mobs storming government buildings, the breakdown of government structures and institutions that maintained civil order, (and) rampant inflation caused by the lack of a stable currency.” He continued, describing supporters of the former regime “As roaming the streets and countryside whose fate has to be determined, regional tensions between north and south, delays, bickering and false starts in the effort to establish a new government.”

That country, the secretary

pointed out, was the United States at the end of the American Revolution. “Those early years of our young republic were characterized by chaos and confusion,” he said. “Our first effort at a governing charter – the Articles of Confederation – failed miserably, and it took eight years of contentious debate before we finally adopted our Constitution and inaugurated our first president.”

Iraq suffers all this, plus the added trauma of decades of denial and brutal rule, Rumsfeld noted. “It

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## Commanders' Corner

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Carl Swanson  
47th Flying Training Wing chaplain

### Chaplain reflects on time spent at Laughlin

Soon Donna and I will load the two dogs in my truck, and we'll head for Langley Air Force Base, Va. As I prepare to depart for new adventures, I am reflecting:

War is awful business. People get hurt or worse. Prices rise and the resources of the world get damaged. But what is the alternative for us? Shall we sit back in selfish apathy or cowardly self-pity and let the terrorists and tyrants overrun the world with their evil intentions? I reflect on your inspiring and intrepid courage to not let evil have it's way. I reflect upon your courage to train, deploy, fight back and prevail.

I reflect on the brave people who serve at Laughlin. Some are tested veterans. Some are in training. Some are civilian workers. I often suspect that the bravest of all are our loved ones. They let us go each day for each mission, while they faithfully maintain the home front. I reflect upon our faithful civilian partners in the Del Rio community. We're all in this fight together.

As a teenager, I fought terrorists. The current war on terrorism is a different version of the same terrorist methodologies. The terrorists use hate to frighten and intimidate others.

Terrorism is very powerful. I learned a lesson then. I learned that

courage is not the absence of fear, but the wherewithal to fight what we're afraid of.

I'm confident we will win this war on terrorism by using the awesome tools of technology in our arsenals. But the presiding dynamic over terrorism will be our wherewithal.

Wherewithal is the intrepid, moral, commitment to do our duty. Wherewithal has both personal and professional qualities. Wherewithal

***"I learned that courage is not the absence of fear, but the wherewithal to fight what we're afraid of."***

comes from our spirit. In our spirit is love of country and respect for human dignity. We want freedom and peace. We want to fulfill God's

expectations for our lives by making the human condition better. We want love to preside over hate. And we'll fight for those ideals. I see and hear such wherewithal each day in you.

There are powerful leaders of terrorists who delight in wrecking suffering for the most selfish and exploiting reasons. They are evil. I believe that they do not deserve to sit safe in caves and bunkers while they scheme and pit young warriors and populations against each other. So, with airpower, we quickly, accurately bring the fight to them. With bunker busting weapons, intelligence gathering and swarms of troops, airpower knocks on the doors of the

terrorists and their leaders – and knocks upon their heads, too.

The enthusiasm we witness each day at Laughlin for airpower, is a dynamic of our wherewithal, far outweighing the terrorist's hateful motives.

I reflect on all the fun here. As Americans, we like to have fun. I've thoroughly enjoyed the skeet range, graduation dinners, promotion ceremonies, XL Club, Pepperoni's Pizza, Lake Amistad and your undaunted sense of humor.

But for me, the most precious memory is of Laughlin children amongst the goats and calves experiencing free pony rides at many Laughlin events. That memory is priceless. So are the memories of hundreds of children converging upon Santa Clause at last year's Christmas holiday party. That party received rave reviews. It was the result of our spouses groups, Club XL, and HUGS Team all working together.

Seeing our young parents raise precious children, delighted to ride a Texas pony or pet a goat, and the community celebrating precious moments of life immensely inspires me.

Upon departing, I intend to look in my rear view mirror, and say, "Thanks be to God for what happens at Laughlin Air Force Base and the precious people here who do their duties. And thank you, God, for the opportunity to share the vital mission with them. Amen."



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Public affairs chief

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Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein  
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#### Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil) or [yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil).

### Border Eagle commentaries

The Border Eagle encourages base members to take part in their paper. Anyone wanting to write for the Viewpoint pages of the paper is welcome.

Commentaries can be written about any aspect of Air Force life you find interesting. Articles should be 250 to 500 words in length. Public Affairs reserves

the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity.

Submissions should be dropped off or faxed to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338. The deadline to submit a commentary is close of business each Thursday, the week prior to publication.

For more information, call 298-5393.

## Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels.

By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



**Col. Dan Woodward**  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
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MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

***"Training the world's  
best pilots and  
deploying forces  
worldwide to fight and  
win America's wars"***  
- 47th FTW mission

# AEF meets call for air power

**By Maj. Gen.  
Timothy A. Peppe**

*Special Assistant for Air and Space  
Expeditionary Force Matters*

WASHINGTON – Whether you were deployed to Southwest Asia launching wave after wave of aircraft, or at your home station working extra shifts to cover for those who were, you know that the global war on terrorism has required a massive Air Force effort.

But oftentimes I think it is hard to appreciate the full spectrum of operations our Air Force has participated in as part of the liberation of Iraq, the destruction of al-Qaida, the protection of our homeland skies, and the other recent operations in defense of our country.

So I thought it would be helpful to provide a "strategic overview" of what the Air Force has been doing since Sept. 11, 2001. To do this, I'll discuss the large numbers of airmen involved, the air mobility assets used and the incredible combat support efforts undertaken to defend the United States.

Not since Desert Storm has the Air Force been called upon to amass as large a fighting force as it did for the global war on terrorism. The Air Force has responded magnificently to the call for air and space power after 9-11, drawing from an unprecedented six Air and Space Expeditionary Forces. Add to that the significant portion of our air mobility and other enabler forces, and you start to see the immense scope of our service's recent activities.

Although not everyone in each AEF was called upon to deploy, more than 120,000 airmen were involved and more than 50,000 deployed. And these were not just active duty, but Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve airmen as well.

That total-force effort was also seen on the home front, where almost 20,000 additional active, Guard

and Reserve airmen kept our homeland secure, supporting Operation Noble Eagle on the mainland and in Alaska, Hawaii and Guam.

Of course, these war-fighting commitments didn't just affect those on the front lines. They affected the total Air Force community as home stations reduced services to its non-deployed members, families, Reservists and retirees. In some cases, the Army National Guard and U.S. overseas allies filled in for those deployed by providing security for air bases at home and abroad.

Among the large numbers of people fighting the war on terrorism are many who, prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, were already operating at a high tempo. Airmen and equipment supporting the E-3 AWACs, E-8 Joint Stars, RC-135 Rivet Joint, U-2, Predator, Global Hawk and air mobility missions, as well as special operations airmen and combat search and rescue forces, were already incredibly busy.

Because of OIF, training programs for the people assigned to these missions were greatly reduced and, in some cases, stopped altogether due to lack of aircraft, aircrews and maintainers.

The global war on terrorism has also required some Herculean efforts by our air mobility team. Air Mobility Command's total force of active-duty and air reserve component forces continued an unrelenting pace that began Sept. 11, 2001, moving people, equipment and supplies, as well as deploying Air Force fighters and bombers. This tremendous effort supported not only the Air Force, but also our sister services and coalition partners.

Many of the people and much of the equipment and supplies AMC moved were part of the extensive combat support efforts the war on terror required. For example, the Air Force opened and operated an addi-

tional 18 expeditionary bases around the OIF area of operations, calling upon combat and combat-support capabilities from many AEFs. In some cases, entire Air Force career fields were tapped out.

Opening these bases put pressure on AMC's tanker and airlift control elements and all of our combat support. After hostilities began, these TALCEs, along with assessment teams and contingency response units, also opened several bases inside Iraq.

The most recent campaign in our country's war against terror perfectly illustrates the might and power of the U.S. Air Force. As Operation Iraqi Freedom unfolded, the world watched as air power from the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Royal Air Force attacked Iraqi command and control with devastating precision.

The combination of air and space power, special operations and information operations ground down Iraqi forces, leaving them demoralized, disoriented and without effective command and control. As a result, coalition ground forces shattered Iraqi resistance wherever it was encountered.

While the giant-sized efforts of our Air Force are often exhausting and thankless, all airmen should be proud of what they have accomplished. Al-Qaida is in disarray, our homeland skies are safe, and the people of Iraq are finally tasting freedom. In the end, I think our Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John P. Jumper, said it best.

"As we begin the process of re-deployment and reconstitution, we can all be proud of the total team effort," the general said. "Although the AEF may never be called upon in the future to simultaneously deploy people from six AEFs, we can all take great comfort in the knowledge that the AEF can, and will, respond successfully to any challenge our nation faces."

**Do the world a favor and recycle this newspaper**

**'Low' from page 1**

training squadron. They competed against each other to declare a wing winner.

For the competition, each squadron received an initial briefing on what their mission would entail at Anderson Hall. All the missions required flying over a target at a specific time at an altitude of 500 feet. After the initial brief, the squadron broke up into their flights and waited for identification of their specific target locations. Once they received them they began planning the mission.

"The hardest part of the competition was mission planning," said Captain Emil Bliss, 85th FTS F flight assistant commander. "We only had an hour from when

we received our targets to when we had to step to our aircraft."

During that hour, each flight had to make a low-level map showing speed, altitude, wind direction, time to check points and fuel calculations. They were not allowed to fly until their maps were correct.

Once the maps were completed the pilots climbed into their aircraft and took off to perform the mission.

"It was really challenging," said Capt. Dean Richardson, 86th FTS grade book officer. "What we really wanted to get out of this was to give our first assignment instructor pilots an opportunity to get some idea of things they will be doing on their next assignment. We tried to make this as real as possible."

**'Iraq' from page 1**

is now just seven weeks since the liberation of Iraq, and the challenges are there," he said. "Just as it took time and patience, trial and error, and years of hard work before our founders got it right – so too will it take time and patience, trial and error, and hard work for the Iraqi people to overcome the challenges they face today."

But, the secretary said, the Iraqis have an advantage over early Americans. The war plan to topple Hussein was such that most of the infrastructure is undamaged. The oil fields – the Iraqi source of wealth – are safe and will soon begin pumping. Coalition forces safeguarded Iraqi dams and worked to limit civilian casualties.

"Iraq could conceivably become a model – proof that a moderate Muslim state can succeed in the battle against extremism taking place in the Muslim world today," Rumsfeld said. "We are committed to helping the Iraqi people get on the path to a free society."

The Coalition Provisional Authority is not about to impose a template of western democracy on the country. "Iraqis will figure out how to build a free nation in a manner that reflects their unique culture and traditions," he said.

The goal is a representative government for all of Iraq that protects the rights of all citizens, does not threaten its neighbors and believes in the rule of law, the secretary said.

The authority in Iraq will not use a template, but will use guidelines, Rumsfeld noted. "First, while our goal is to put functional and political authority in the hands of Iraqis as soon as possible,

the Coalition Provisional Authority has the responsibility to fill the vacuum of power in a country that has been under a dictatorship for decades, by asserting temporary authority over the country," he said. "The coalition will do so. It will not tolerate self-appointed 'leaders.'"

The coalition will provide security and restore law and order to the country. "The coalition is hiring and training Iraqi police and they will be prepared to use force to impose order as required," he said. "Because without order, little else will be possible." Coalition forces will remain in the country as long as it takes to maintain order "and no longer," said Rumsfeld.

Working with the Iraqis, the authority will continue basic services such as electrical power, pure water and sewage disposal – all neglected by the former regime.

The coalition will work to staff ministries quickly with competent, acceptable Iraqis. "The coalition will work with forward-looking Iraqis and actively oppose the old regime's enforcers – the Baath Party leaders, Fedayeen Saddam and other instruments of repression, and make it clear that it will eliminate the remnants of Saddam's regime," Rumsfeld said.

He said this process may cause inefficiencies, but it is critical to removing pervasive fear from Iraqi society.

Rumsfeld said that countries, the United Nations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations are all welcome to assist in Iraq. "They can and are playing an important role," he said. "The Coalition Provisional Authority will work closely with them to maintain a focus of effort."

**Low Level  
Competition  
Winners:**

**Wing Competition:  
Team 3 (made up of K  
Flight, 84th Flying  
Squadron; L Flight, 84th  
FTS; C Flight, 85th  
FTS; I Flight, 86th FTS;  
N Flight, 87th FTS**

**Squadron  
Competition:  
84th/85th FTS:  
C Flight, 84th FTS  
86th FTS:  
K Flight  
87th FTS:  
O Flight**

# Newslines

## Optometrist

Due to manning issues, Laughlin will not have an assigned optometrist until late July. A manning-assist optometrist will be at Laughlin from June 16-20 and July 7-11 and will offer appointments to active-duty military members only.

To schedule an appointment, please call central appointments at 298-3578.

For more information, call 298-6429.

## Junior ROTC

The Eagle Pass High School Junior Air Force ROTC is looking to fill a noncommissioned officer's position. The position is open to those retiring or who have been retired for up to five years.

For more information, call Capt. Al Shockey at (830) 774-4544.

## Vehicle stickers

Laughlin members needing DD Form 2220, vehicle decal, can now pick them up at the pass and registration office in building 146 from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Members should bring vehicle registration, insurance, state drivers license and ID card.

For more information, call 298-5349.

## Honor guard

The Laughlin honor guard is looking for individuals to serve as ceremonial guardsmen. Ceremonial buglers or trumpet players are also needed. A full ceremonial uniform will be provided at no cost.

For more information, call 298-4340.

## Lost keys

The 47th Security Forces Squadron has found several sets of keys. To claim the keys call Senior Airman Stacy Kelley at 298-5468.

## Parent pins

All uniformed airmen can now sign their parents up to receive a lapel pin. The pins are about three-fourths of an inch square and feature a silver letter "P" cradled within the Air Force symbol.

Members may get their parents a pin at [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com). Signing up will require airmen to enter the names and addresses of up to two parents or parental figures.

The program is voluntary and comes at no cost to those participating.



# Graduation



SUPT Class 03-10 graduates



**Capt. Richard Crist**  
C-130, (AFRES)  
Willow Grove ARS, Pa.



**1st Lt. Isaac Adams**  
C-17,  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



**1st Lt. Raymond Aguilar**  
KC-135,  
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



**1st Lt. Eric Alden**  
KC-135,  
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



**1st Lt. Scott Derenzy**  
C-21,  
Langley AFB, Va.



**1st Lt. Daniel Edgar**  
A-10,  
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



**1st Lt. Steven Henderson**  
T-37,  
Laughlin AFB



**1st Lt. Christopher Mazzei**  
C-17,  
McChord AFB, Wash.



**1st Lt. Eric McUmber**  
T-6,  
Moody AFB, Ga.



**1st Lt. Erick Pacheco**  
T-1,  
Laughlin AFB



**1st Lt. William Phillips**  
KC-135,  
Fairchild AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Justin Anhalt**  
F-15C,  
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Seth Asay**  
C-5,  
Travis AFB, Calif.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Bell**  
A-10,  
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Jason Evans**  
C-21,  
Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio



**2nd Lt. Kevin Kelly**  
KC-135, (ANG)  
Niagara Falls, N.Y.



**2nd Lt. Anthony Lawson**  
KC-10,  
McGuire AFB, N.J.



**2nd Lt. Philippe Melby**  
KC-135,  
McConnell AFB, Kan.



**2nd Lt. Tomoki Oshiro**  
T-38, (INT)  
Moody AFB, Ga.



**2nd Lt. Eric Schultz**  
F-15E,  
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.



**2nd Lt. Akio Toda**  
T-37C, (INT)  
Moody AFB, Ga.



**2nd Lt. Dena Williams**  
WC-130, (AFRES)  
Keesler AFB, Miss.

## New course enhances Jr. NCO supervisory skills

**By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill**

*Public Affairs*

Senior NCOs here have redesigned a course aimed at enhancing the knowledge of junior NCOs in supervisory positions.

The NCO Force Development Course is intended to refresh supervisor knowledge about NCO responsibilities and duties, said Master Sgt. Gail Henderson, 47th Mission Support Squadron education and training flight superintendent and one of the course's coordinators, along with Master Sgt. Robin Rutzke of the 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron.

"The course is geared toward staff sergeant and technical sergeant supervisors whose last professional military education was at least two years ago, and to senior airmen who supervise," added Sergeant Henderson. "It re-teaches them how to be effective leaders and professional NCOs."

The three-day course is a modified version of a course conducted here in previous years, the NCO Professional Development Seminar, which was geared toward senior airmen who had no professional military education and staff sergeants

who had no PME in the past three years. The course name was changed in addition to the blocks of training. Senior NCOs discuss a wide range of topics with students that include effective feedback and counseling, writing skills, standards and maintenance of discipline, aerospace expeditionary force, time and stress management, and on-the-job training responsibilities.

"Students who have attended the course are really enthused about it," Sergeant Henderson said. "They want to learn. The course can accommodate up to 16 students comfortably. It will be offered as often as needed, but we're looking at conducting the course quarterly, based on the number of students we have attending."

Staff Sgt. Ignacio Castro-Luna of the 47th Flying Training Wing Safety Office attended the course in May, and said the topics covered are excellent. "You get to learn a little more about our Laughlin leadership," he said. "The course reminds you that your job as an NCO is very important and that NCOs make unique contributions not only at work, but to the base and Air Force."

Senior Airman Becky Hale of the 47th ADS,

who also attended the course in May, said she learned the importance and responsibilities of how to be an effective leader to younger troops, and important tips on how to be an effective counselor when it is needed. "Because of the fact I am a senior airman, supervising three troops and have not yet been to airman leadership school, this class was exactly what I needed to better my leadership skills," she said.

Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos, 47th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, emphasized that this course is designed to provide supervisors with the right perspective or insight on how to effectively lead today's enlisted force.

"The most important thing we can do is train our people properly and provide them the tools they need to do their job," he said. "The most important job front-line supervisors have is to supervise and provide effective guidance and leadership to their troops. Effective supervision and leadership are the keys to retaining our troops. They result in a quality working environment that trans

**See 'COURSE' page 7**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Eric M. Grill

### Chance of a lifetime

**OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM** — Senior Airmen Luke Allen (left) and Rusty Youngblood, Air Force countersnipers deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, got what they call "the chance of a lifetime" Sunday when they embarked on an offensive combat mission with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. Their mission was to provide long-range reconnaissance, target acquisition and neutralization of any al-Qaida or anti-coalition forces target of opportunity. Both airmen are deployed from the 820th Security Forces Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

**'Course,' from page 6**

lates to job satisfaction and satisfaction with their Air Force careers. That's why courses like this are important."

The course also includes a wing commander's discussion and a chiefs and first sergeants forum with students. Combined, these two forums provide the senior leadership perspective, said Chief Pilihos.

"Most students don't get the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of the wing commander or enlisted senior leadership," the chief said. "Forums such as these, open the doors to the big picture and enable students to see exactly how their duties and responsibilities fit into the wing, major command and Air Force mission."

The chief said that most junior NCOs are biting at the bit for additional education, especially education that will help them to be more effective supervisors. He encourages supervisors and senior NCOs of perspective students to recommend their folks for the three-day course.

"It is our most significant responsibility as senior NCOs to prepare those that follow us to take our jobs and be tomorrow's enlisted leaders," the chief added. "This course is a tool we've developed to help [supervisors and senior NCOs] fulfill their responsibility. It won't replace the experience and mentorship they bring to the fight, but I guarantee it will help them to successfully prepare their people."

Chief Pilihos said that he has heard complaints over the past few

years that the Air Force is promoting people too early and placing them in supervisory positions before they are ready, and that the first-line and mid-level supervisory force is hollow because of low retention rates.

"Here, we're offering a valuable tool to help combat these perceptions," he said. "I encourage those people as well to make the time, three days, to help fix the problem."

One of the course's instructors, Master Sgt. Laura Hopkins of the 47th FTW command post, said she remembers the challenges she had as a new supervisor, trying to find information for herself or her troops, and the assistance she received from smart senior NCOs has always stayed in her mind. That's why she stepped up to become an instructor.

"Having the chance to share a

little of my job experience and knowledge was a treat," she said. "The course also gives someone who attends a local senior NCO as a future person to contact if they ever need assistance or information regarding that senior NCOs instruction during the course."

Another instructor, Master Sgt. Karla Jordan-Hunnicut, 47th Medical Group first sergeant, said she really believes in what she's doing.

"It's definitely the responsibility of senior NCOs to set the example for, educate, mentor, support, and interact with our junior members," she said. "We can't sit in the office everyday and 'tell' them how things are supposed to be done. We've got to get out into the field and add a little 'show' to that as well."

# Air Force helps Iraqi dog immigrate

By Airman 1st Class  
**Stephanie Hammer**  
437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – A German shepherd of Iraqi descent arrived here May 30 aboard a C-17 Globemaster III after putting his life on the line to guard U.S. special forces.

Fluffy, a dog from northern Iraq with visible scars, will retire at Fort Bragg, N.C., as an honorary military working dog.

When Fluffy first joined Sgt. 1st Class Russell Joyce, a special forces soldier and Fluffy's trainer, he weighed about 31 pounds and was missing his front two bottom teeth. But after only two weeks, he was put to work.

Fluffy, who takes no apparent offense to his unlikely name, was an "immeasurable success" as a military working dog.

"I asked the Kurdish (fighters) if we could have a dog," said Joyce. The Kurds brought him "Tariq Aziz," named after Iraq's deputy prime minister, but the name did not last long.

"I was joking around, and I said, 'you know what, I'm going to call him Fluffy. My dog's name is Fluffy,'" said Joyce. "One person started calling him that, myself, and two people started calling him that; it just stuck."

The full-breed shepherd began his career learning a few simple commands before becoming a guard and pursuit dog.

"Having a person on roving patrol is a great thing, but adding the sense of smell and the sense of hearing that a dog has really heightened the sense of awareness to early detection," said Joyce.

"He's been in harm's way and shot at more times than anyone on my team," Joyce said. "He proved himself to be a worthy asset. He means a lot to me because we definitely went through a lot over there together."

Eager for retirement, Fluffy arrived in the United States escorted by Maj. Jim Pompano from the 615th Air Mobility Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., who happened to be returning home from the area.

Pompano was able to make sure

the dog's transition went smoothly.

"We waited until all the t's were crossed and the i's were dotted and we had the proper paperwork, then we got the dog home," Pompano said. "I just happened to be leaving at the same time, so I decided the best thing I could do was just escort Fluffy (to the United States)."

Although Fluffy did not like the takeoff or landing much, Pompano said he did pretty well on the flight home.

"I talked to Fluffy just like I would talk to anyone else," he said. "He was pretty well trained, and I didn't have any problems there."

Fluffy was greeted on the flightline by his supporters who sent hundreds of e-mails, letters and made phone calls supporting his safe immigration to the United States.

"I think that America as a whole had a big hand in this, and it's really a gift from the United States to me and a gift to Fluffy to be able to come home," said Joyce. "This dog really gets the opportunity for a fresh start here." (Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs, Army News Service, also contributed to this story.)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wolfe

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – Army Sgt. 1st Class Russell Joyce is reunited with his former partner, Fluffy, on the flightline here. Fluffy put his life on the line guarding U.S. special forces and received permission to immigrate to the United States.

**Do the world a favor and recycle this newspaper**

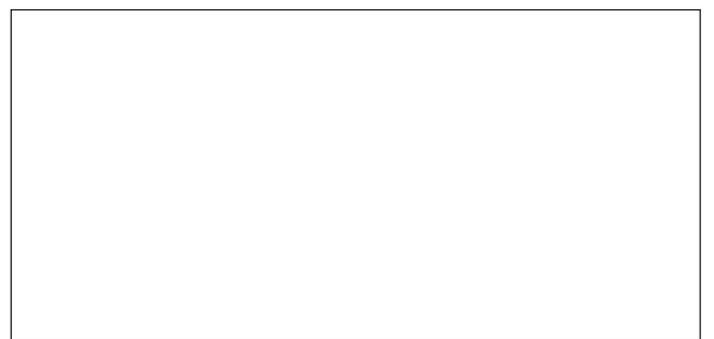
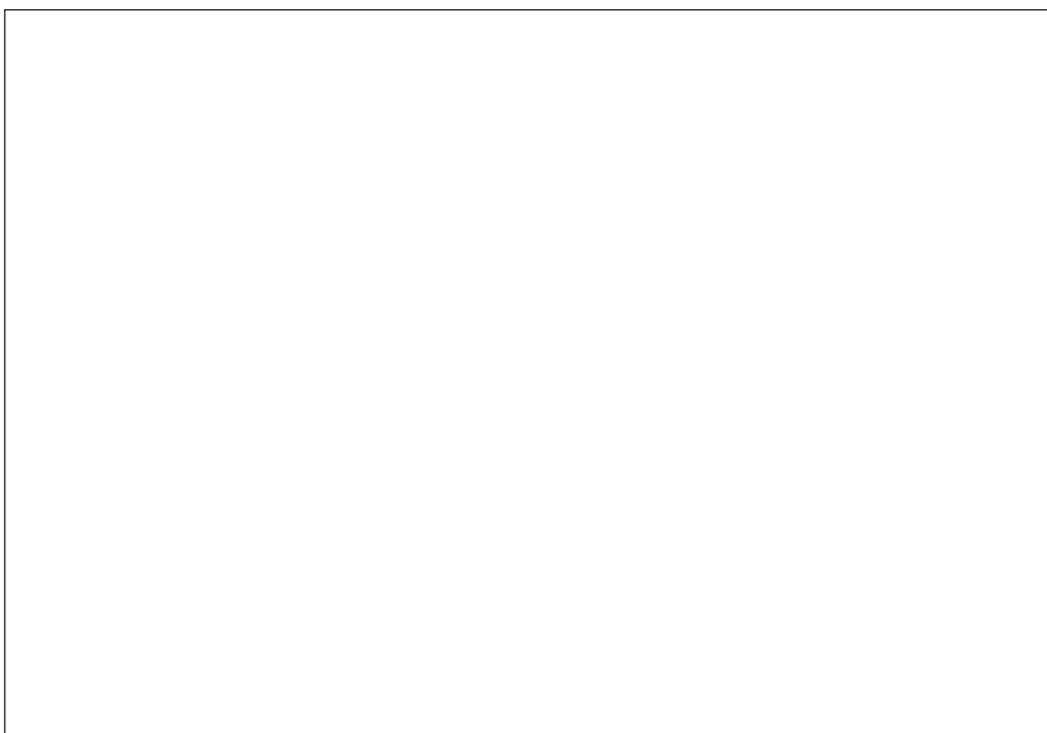




Photo by Capt. Michele Tasista

**A piece of history...**

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Maj. Gen. John Becker (top), 15th Air Force commander, co-pilots a B-17 Flying Fortress at Nut Tree airport in Vacaville, Calif., after performing a flyover May 27. Chief Master Sgt. David Spector from 60th Air Mobility Wing here monitors the aircraft’s movement. The B-17 was the first plane operated by Travis’ 6th Air Refueling Squadron.

**Chapel Schedule**

**Catholic**

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass
- Sunday* ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
- Thursday* ● 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., R.C.I.A.
- Reconciliation* ● By appointment
- Religious Education* ● 11 a.m. Sunday

**Jewish, Muslim and other**

- Call 298-5111

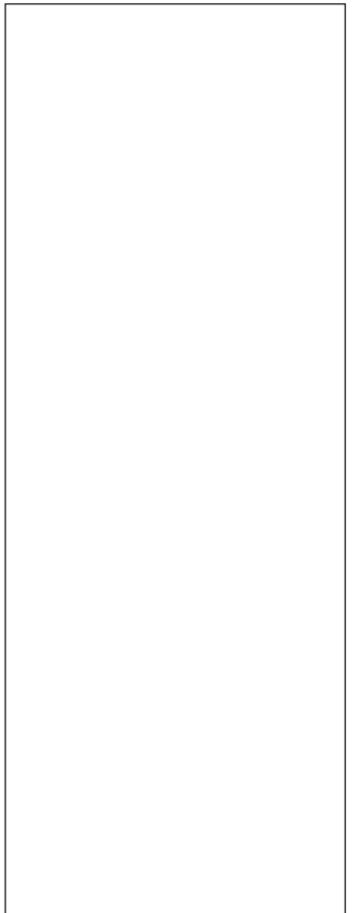
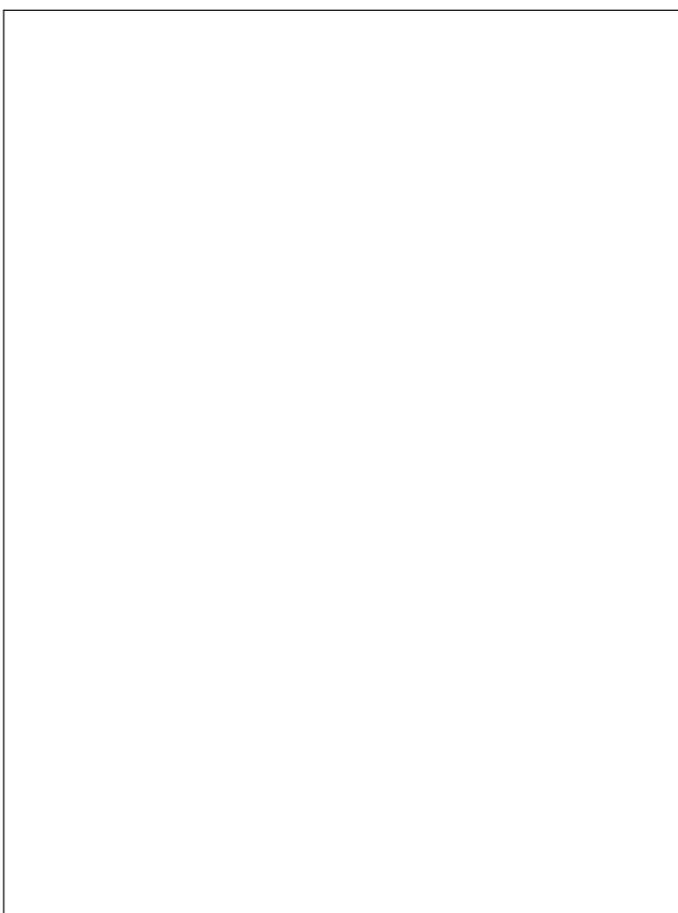
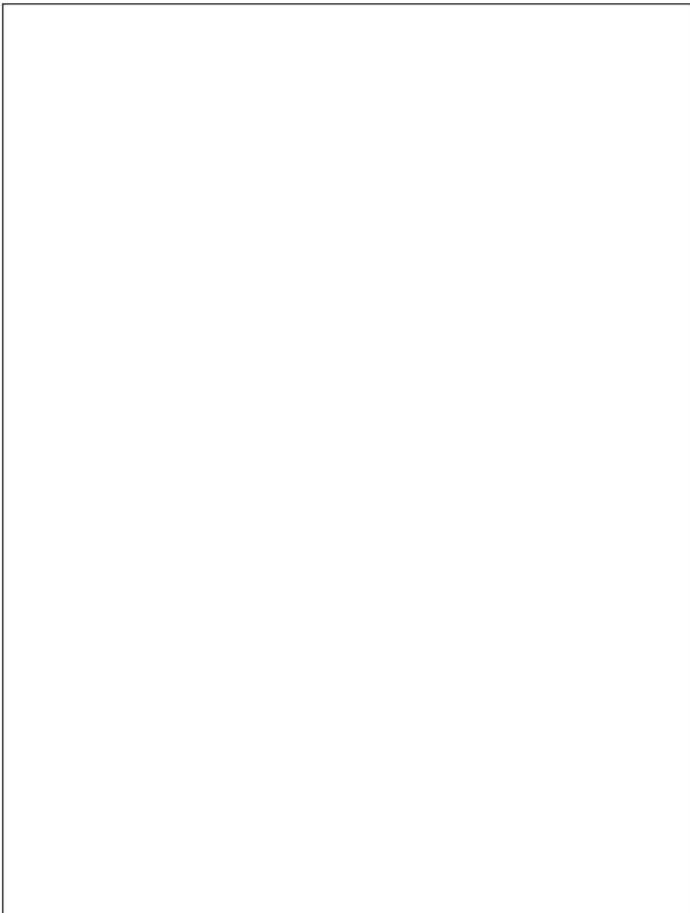
**Nondenominational**

- Sunday* ● 6:30 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238
- Friday* ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship (activities for children)
- Monthly* ● Women’s fellowship (call 298-1351 for details)

**Protestant**

- Sunday* ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
- 11 a.m., General worship (blend of contemporary and traditional worship, nursery provided)
- Wednesday* ● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study
- 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.



# Drill team faces 'tip of the spear'

GUNTER ANNEX, Ala. – Standing shoulder to shoulder, the drill team members twirled, tossed and caught their 35-inch-long, 19-ounce sabers. Often coming perilously close to their teammates, the well-practiced team flawlessly executed the routines.

The Sabre Drill Team, the only active-duty enlisted group of its kind in the Air Force, was formed in 1989 as a way to promote esprit de corps within the Standard Systems Group here.

"At that time rifle teams were a dime a dozen, so in order to be unique, they decided to use sabers," said Tech. Sgt. Tracey Ulanski, the

team's chief who has been a member for more than six years.

In the past 14 years, the team has performed for more than 83,000 people, traveling more than 56,000 miles across 13 states. The team supports any military, community or civic function that increases public awareness of Air Force missions and promotes patriotism.

"Being on the Sabre Drill Team is great," said Staff Sgt. Jered Sledge, assistant team chief. "It's lots of fun, and we meet all kinds of neat people. Plus, it's another way to serve and promote the Air Force."

Standard Systems Group airmen

volunteer for the drill team and enter a three-phase training program to learn how to handle the saber. The training program can take up to a year to complete.

Airman 1st Class Joshua Ewart, a computer programmer with the Combat Ammunition Systems program, joined the team about three months ago.

"I am about to enter Phase 3 training, where I'll learn to throw the saber," he said. "I love being a part of the team. We work hard in order to give great performances."

Team members practice rigorously for the intricate maneuvers. The choreographed routines are var-

ied, but involve some form of saber handling that "fits" the music.

"It can take up to five months for us to perfect a routine," Ulanski said.

Maneuvers include an overhead toss, where four members toss their sabers into the air diagonally then catch the sabers one-handed. Another maneuver that shocks the crowd is an over-the-shoulder toss, with the saber again being caught one-handed.

Despite the potential danger, members of the drill team press on as they practice countless hours with one goal in mind — to represent Standard Systems Group and the Air Force.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

## The *XLer*

**Airman 1st Class Oscar Gonzales**  
*47th Comptroller Flight customer support*



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

**Hometown:** Eagle Pass, Texas  
**Time at Laughlin:** Two years  
**Time in service:** Two years five months  
**Greatest accomplishments:** Joining the Air Force  
**Hobbies:** Sports  
**Favorite music:** Punk rock  
**Favorite movie:** Shreck  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** Magaly Suarez. She makes me laugh.

# FCF works hard to keep Laughlin healthy

**By 1st Lt. Lindsay Logsdon**  
*Public Affairs*

Tucked away in a maze of small offices, the members of the 47th family care flight perform clinical and administrative duties and they don't go home until their work is done.

Although the 47th Medical Clinic's hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., a majority of their work is completed behind the scenes, which takes them beyond normal duty hours.

After five months of health care integrator nurse management experience at Wilford Hall, Maj. Sylvia Ballez-Griffin, the 47th FCF commander, was sent here to take charge of the family care clinic. Aside from being the flight commander, her job title also includes being the nurse manager and health care integrator.

The family care flight is made up of two family care physicians, one internal medicine physician, four nurses, two physicians assistants, one nurse practitioner, one pediatrician, 11 medical technicians, one appointment clerk, and one administration clerk, said Major Ballez-Griffin. The flight personnel make up the family care clinic, the internal medicine clinic, the pediatric clinic and the women's health clinic.

To keep this 25-person flight working in concert as a team the family care flight meets every morning at 7:15 a.m. "We receive a morning report of who is on leave,

TDY or sick, so we can plan our day. Our first appointment is at 7:40 a.m. and we need to ensure there is plenty of staff to check in patients at the front desk and screen them before they go to their appointments," said Major Ballez-Griffin.

For Staff Sgt. Traci Wilmoth, 47th FCF noncommissioned officer in charge, there is no set schedule after the morning meeting. "I take care of whatever is the most important and there are usually 10 things that are most important.

"The family care flight's mission is, 'to promote and ensure wellness, optimal healthcare and readiness for local and worldwide contingencies. It's important to realize that our main mission is to ensure that all active duty members are ready to deploy'," said Sergeant Wilmoth.

A majority of the flight's work is generated from the Preventative Health Assessment program. "The PHA ensures immunizations, dental, fitness and optometry are up to date. Active duty members have to be ready to deploy," said Major Ballez-Griffin.

The flight supports not only active duty members who are non-flyers, but also dependents and retirees. Every patient's journey through any one of the flight's clinics starts at the reception desk and then moves to the technician who will take their vital signs. Lastly, the doctor will visit with the patient in the exam room, but it's what happens after the ap-



Photo by 1st Lt. Lindsay Logsdon

Senior Airman Tracey Smith, 47th Medical Operations Squadron medical service journeyman, conducts a medical records review at the Family Care Clinic.

pointment that the patient never sees.

Behind the scenes, medical records are being reviewed. "The day is not done until we have all of the records checked for the following day and that particular day. We do a pre- and post-review of all of our medical records to make sure all the labs are done," said Major Ballez-Griffin.

In addition to reviewing medical records, reminder mail-out letters are prepared. Technicians go through a screening checklist, "it's like a map so we can inform the patients of our clinical preventative services," said Major Ballez-Griffin.

Although paperwork seems to

make up the majority of the workload, other behind-the-scenes services do take place. "Providers have picked up medications from the pharmacy and taken them to the patient's home on a weekend. Providers also get calls in the middle of the night and they are always ready to serve," said Major Ballez-Griffin.

Even though their offices are small the, 47th family care clinic's hearts are large. "Our motto is 'Above and beyond Excellence.' We strive to deliver quality service and want our patients to know their health is very important to us" said Major Ballez-Griffin.

Going on vacation? Take safety with you.



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# LCSAM takes bowling title

By Bob Holmgren

47th Maintenance Division branch supervisor

Laughlin's spring season intramural bowling season came to an end on May 15 with Laughlin Civil Service Aircraft Maintenance taking the title in a match against Security Forces Squadron #2.

After 24 weeks of intense head-to-head competition, the two teams distanced themselves from the pack. SFS #2 and LCSAM battled all season for the top spot and on May 15 it came down to a final showdown between the two for the league title.

Both teams came to the Cactus Lanes fired up and ready to do combat. After a slow start, LCSAM started to convert their spares and pull away. However, LCSAM knew that SFS #2 was not going to quit. SFS #2 started making their spares and inched closer and closer to taking the lead with each frame. All three games were tightly contested, but after the dust had settled it was LCSAM that came out on top. Both teams bowled their hearts out.

LCSAM team members were Glenda McCauley, Mark Morales, Darryl Boykin, Mike Steed, Laron Bryant and Bob Holmgren. The SF team members were Briana Barnhart, Boniface Sapno, Kevin Robertson, Jess Davis, John Bush and Jimmy Flores.

As the league president, I would like to congratulate all of the teams and say thank you for making this year a success.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

## A little warm up...

Gregory Gibson lifts 365 pounds in the first round of Muscle Mania Wednesday at the fitness center. Muscle Mania is an annual weight lifting event Air Force wide. The Laughlin winners in the bench press and the squat thrust get to move on and compete at the Air Education and Training Command Muscle Mania at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Taylor Diaz won overall and 182-197 pound bench press contest. Gibson won the overall squat thrust and 198-229 squat and bench press contests. Andrea Reyes was the overall women's winner in both contests. Other winners are: 165 and under squat and bench press – James Zimmer; 166-181 squat and bench press – Agustin Siller; 182-197 squat – Taylor Diaz; 230 and over squat and bench press – Robert Sandoval. Winners were determined by the percentage of weight they could lift over their body weight.

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